

Appln No. 09/533,022

Amdt date May 26, 2005

Reply to Office action of March 4, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4, 6,-9, 11-32 and 35-136 are pending. Claims 1, 7, 9, 32, 36, 72, 82, and 109 are amended.

Claims 7, 14, 16-18, 22-25, 28-31, 36, 38, 42, 45-51, 55-58, 78, 88, 90-92, 97, 98, 100, 106, 126-129 and 134-136 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 7 and 36 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly allowance of claims 7 and 36 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11-13, 15, 19-21, 26-28, 31, 32, 35, 37, 39-44, 46, 47, 52-55, 59-77, 79-87, 89, 93-96, 99, 101-105, 107-125, and 130-133 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Farrell et al. (US 6,198,819). Applicants submit that all of the claims currently pending in this application are patentably distinguishable over the cited references, and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Amended independent claims 1 and 72 include among other limitations, "conditioning the composite signal, if the estimated signal characteristic of said first signal and of said composite signal are above a predetermined level," and "bypassing the conditioning, if the estimated signal characteristic of said first signal and said composite signal

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are below the predetermined level." Ferrell does not disclose the above limitations.

Rather, Farrell discloses a "dual-h" echo canceller that includes " both a non-adaptive filter h and an adaptive filter h to model the echo response h ." (Col. 4, lines 15-21, and FIG. 2). A switch 45 is used to "provide the echo compensation based on the $h^$ filter during convergence and then be switched to provide the echo compensation based on the h^- filter after convergence. Further, the switch 45 is directed to provide the echo compensation based on the h filter in response to the detection of a double-talk condition." (Col. 4, lines 37-42).

Therefore, the system of Farrell uses either the non-adaptive filter h^- , or the adaptive filter $h^$. As a result, Farrell does not disclose "bypassing the conditioning, if the estimated signal characteristic of said first signal and said composite signal are below the predetermined level."

Consequently, amended independent claims 1 and 72 are not anticipated by Farrell.

Amended independent claims 8 and 82 include among other limitations, "cancelling the echo from the near end signal, if the estimated energy level of the far end echo is above an audible level," and "bypassing the cancelling, if the estimated energy level of the far end echo is below the audible level."

As discussed above, Farrell does not disclose "bypassing the cancelling, if the estimated energy level of the far end echo is below the audible level." Additionally, Farrell does not disclose "cancelling the echo from the near end signal, if the estimated energy level of the far end echo is above an

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audible level." As a result, amended independent claims 9 and 82 are not anticipated by Farrell.

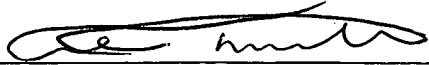
Amended independent claims 32 and 109 include similar limitations and therefore are also not anticipated by Farrell.

In short, independent claims 1, 9, 32, 72, 82, and 109 define a novel and unobvious invention over the cited references. Dependent claims 4, 6, 8, 11-31, 35, 37-71, 73-81, 83-108, and 110-136 are dependent from claims 1, 9, 32, 72, 82, and 109, respectively and therefore include all the limitations of their respective independent claims and additional limitations therein. Accordingly, these claims are also allowable over the cited references, as being dependent from allowable independent claims and for the additional limitations they include therein.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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